

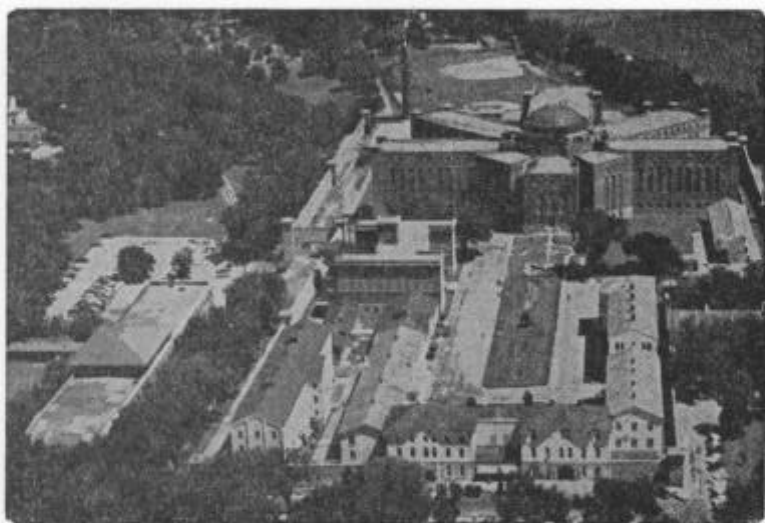
UNITED STATES DISCIPLINARY BARRACKS



FORT LEAVENWORTH
KANSAS

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The United States Disciplinary Barracks



Established 1874

PART I

HISTORY

Prior to the establishment of a military prison, military prisoners were confined in various state penitentiaries and in thirty-two different stockades. Punishments varied from stockade to stockade and prison to prison which included flogging, use of ball and chain, shackling, tattooing, branding, solitary confinement and execution. Food was poor, work was long and difficult, punishment was severe, and little was done toward promoting reformation and rehabilitation of military prisoners. These, along with many other problems, accentuated the movement to establish a military prison.

Brigadier General (then Major) Thomas F. Barr is respectfully referred to as the father of the United States Military Prison. In 1871 he submitted a communication to the Secretary of War calling attention to the treatment of military prisoners at different confinement facilities. An investigation resulted and recommendations for changes were approved at all levels. In January 1872, a bill was prepared and submitted to Congress requesting approval for a military prison. In March 1873 the bill was passed to establish the first military prison at Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois. A strong protest was immediately lodged against this proposed location by the Ordnance Department and the Secretary of the Army on the grounds that prisoners could not be trusted to work with munitions and that security measures necessary for the operation of a prison would greatly restrict the primary mission of the

arsenal. On 27 May 1874 the original bill was amended to establish the military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The building to be used had formerly been a Quartermaster Depot which supplied all camps and posts in the west.

This installation was operated as a Military Prison until 1895 when existing facilities were turned over to the Department of Justice for the operation of the United States Penitentiary. On 1 February 1906, upon partial completion of the new United States Penitentiary on the western part of the military reservation of Fort Leavenworth, the Department of Justice returned the institution to the War Department. It was then designated as a United States Military Prison. In 1915, by an act of Congress, the name and official designation was changed to the United States Disciplinary Barracks.

Again on 14 September 1929, the Department of Justice assumed control of the installation under a five-year lease, which was later renewed for a like period. Pursuant to a letter from the War Department, dated 22 October 1940, the United States Disciplinary Barracks, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, was again returned to military control and was re-established on 6 November 1940. Since that date the installation has been operated by the Department of The Army.

One problem that seemed very small when the Military Prison opened, and in later years gathered wide criticism, was that of burying deceased military prisoners in the National Cemetery at Fort Leavenworth.

The first cemetery began with the founding of Fort

Leavenworth in 1827. The soldiers' burial ground was located at the present site of Post Headquarters and the officers' cemetery was in the vicinity of the present site of the Commanding General's Quarters. In 1861, these bodies were disinterred and moved to the present site of the National Cemetery. After the Civil War, several frontier posts were deactivated and the bodies in these cemeteries were disinterred and moved to Fort Leavenworth. This large scale re-burial program of war veterans entitled to military burial caused the Post Cemetery to be declared a National Cemetery.

The first prisoner to die at the Military Prison was John P. Hunter, registry number 272, who died of Typho-Malaria Fever 28 September 1875. He was buried in the National Cemetery, Fort Leavenworth. From 1875 to 1883, sixteen other prisoners died and were also buried in the National Cemetery. To this date, all seventeen of them remain buried there.

The failure to follow regulations governing National Cemetery interments caused Quartermaster General officials to severely criticize the operation of this cemetery, and it is safe to assume that this criticism prompted the United States Military Prison to establish its own cemetery. A military prison cemetery was subsequently established in 1884. The first prisoner to be interred in this new cemetery was Sidney Williams, registry number 468, who died of pneumonia 10 March 1884.

From 1884 to 1895, there were 26 military prisoners buried in the military cemetery. In 1895 the military prison was turned over to the Federal Government for utilization as a federal prison. During the period 1895 to 1905

while the federal government was in control, there were 147 prisoners buried in the military cemetery. In 1905 the prison again reverted to military control and remained so until 1929. During this period, there were 49 military prisoners buried in the military cemetery.

From 1929 to 1940 the USDB was again abandoned by the military and established as an annex to the Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary. During this period, no interments were made by the Federal Prison or its annex because the Federal Prison had established its own cemetery on 23 July 1905.

The re-establishment of the USDB in 1940 necessitated the re-use of the cemetery. There have been 18 interments from 1940 to this date (fourteen of these interments were German Prisoners of War who were executed for murder in July and August 1945).

There are a total of 240 burials in the USDB cemetery. There are no females or children buried in the USDB cemetery nor are there any persons who died in an honorable status.

The following is a chronological list of Commandants since activation:

Brigadier General (then Major) James Madison Robertson 15 May 1875 to 26 February 1877.

Brevet Colonel (then Captain) Asa P. Blunt 1 March 1877 to 1 January 1888.

Captain James W. Pope 2 January 1888 to 1 July 1895.
(1895 to 1906 the USDB was under control of the Department of Justice.)

Major George S. Young 2 February 1906 to 2 July 1908.

Major Thomas H. Slavens 3 July 1908 to 12 January 1914.

Colonel Herbert J. Slocum 13 January 1914 to 31 August 1914.

F. A. Barton 1 September 1914 to 19 December 1914 (rank not available).

Colonel Sedgwick Rice 20 December 1914 to 26 August 1919.

Brigadier General James H. McRae 27 August 1919 to 4 September 1920.

Colonel Malvern Hill Barnum 5 September 1920 to 31 March 1923.

Colonel George O. Cress 1 April 1923 to 14 September 1926.

Colonel William M. Morrow 15 September 1926 to 20 September 1929.

(September 1929 to November 1940 the USDB was under control of the Department of Justice.)

Colonel Converse R. Lewis 8 November 1940 to 3 July 1942.

Colonel James P. Marley 4 July 1942 to 30 September 1943.

Colonel William S. Eley 14 October 1943 to 8 November 1946.

Colonel Lathrop R. Bullene 9 November 1946 to 30 March 1947.

Colonel Graene G. Parks 31 March 1947 to 18 August 1948.

Colonel Clarence E. Cotter 22 June 1948 to 24 June 1949.

Colonel Rhodes F. Arnold 25 June 1949 to 1 December 1951.

Colonel James W. Davis 13 June 1952 to 27 September 1959.

Colonel Weldon W. Cox 28 September 1959 to .

PART II

DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES

MAIN UNIT—The walled area occupies $12\frac{1}{2}$ acres and is joined on the north by a 5 acre recreation field enclosed by a double cyclone fence. Inside the walled area there are 18 buildings dating from 1863 to 1957. The original buildings, of which three still exist, were constructed during the period 1863 to 1878. A portion of one building is believed to have been built about the year 1840. The main confinement building, known locally as the "Castle", was constructed by prisoner labor and completed in 1921. A one story building now used as a dry cleaning plant was also built in 1921. A three story hospital was completed in the year 1930. The wall enclosing the yard and buildings varies in height from fifteen to forty-one feet. The original section of the wall is stone. The new wall, which was built to enclose the "Castle" area, is of cast concrete blocks and is in good condition. The 1st Guard Company is quartered just west of the institution in a modern four story brick building. Quarters in close proximity to the institution are available for a limited number of married commissioned officers and enlisted personnel. Rail service direct to the Disciplinary Barracks is available through the Missouri Pacific Railroad. The cities of Leavenworth, Kansas; Kansas City, Kansas; and Kansas City, Missouri are 3, 27 and 35 miles respectively from Fort Leavenworth.

LOCAL PAROLEE UNIT—The Local Parolee Unit is located approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile northwest of the Main Unit in a cantonment area designated as Sherman Heights.

The area is constructed of 19 buildings built in 1941 and 1942. These buildings consist of an orderly room, 9 barracks, 3 latrines, chapel, library, mess hall, 2 TV Buildings, day room, visitors' room, and an athletic and recreation room. The operation of the Local Parolee Unit is discussed in detail under the section for Director of Custody.

FARM COLONY AND GREENHOUSE—The Farm Colony is located approximately two miles northwest of the institution. The Greenhouse is located midway between the Farm Colony and the Main Unit. The operation of both the Farm Colony and the Greenhouse are explained in detail under the section for the Director of Prisoner Training.

PART III

ORGANIZATION AND STAFF FUNCTIONS

To best accomplish the assigned mission, the Command and Staff of the United States Disciplinary Barracks is organized with a Colonel as Commandant, a Lieutenant Colonel as Deputy Commandant, and six senior field grade officers as Directors to organize and coordinate all operational activities. In addition to the six Directors, the Commandant has a Catholic and Protestant Chaplain, a Judge Advocate and a Commanding officer for the 1st Guard company on his staff. Each staff officer's function is as follows:

COMMANDANT

The Commandant exercises command of the Disciplinary Barracks and performs overall supervision for the effective accomplishment of the assigned mission.

DEPUTY COMMANDANT

The Deputy Commandant exercises supervision over the staff and all major departments of the command and keeps the Commandant informed on all matters concerning the effective accomplishments of the assigned mission.

1ST GUARD COMPANY COMMANDER

The Commanding Officer of the 1st Guard Company performs internal administrative operations for his unit including discipline, supply, mess, education, recreation, general welfare, and training. Particular emphasis is placed

on the training program concerning the peculiar problems in the operation of a disciplinary barracks. He is also responsible for operating an effective military retraining program, called Military Training Branch, for those prisoners who are restored to military duty.

JUDGE ADVOCATE

The Judge Advocate provides legal service for assigned personnel and prisoners of this command. He advises the Commandant and staff concerning legal problems incident to the operation of the Disciplinary Barracks and supervises the administration of military justice in the command.

CHAPLAIN

The Chaplains provide religious services, counseling and guidance for prisoners of this command. They keep the Commandant and staff informed on matters relative to the moral and spiritual welfare of the prisoners.

DIRECTOR OF CUSTODY

The Director of Custody implements custodial policies and coordinates functions pertaining to employment, housing, subsistence custody, control, discipline, recreation, care and welfare of the prisoners.

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

The Director of Administration formulates policy and coordinates administrative support for the entire command.

DIRECTOR OF SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE

The Director of Supply and Maintenance coordinates and supervises activities pertaining to supply and maintenance of utilities and buildings belonging to the institution. He directs procurement, storage, and issue of expendable and non-expendable supplies and equipment including health and comfort items provided for prisoners.

DIRECTOR OF CLASSIFICATION

The Director of Classification supervises and directs activities pertaining to prisoner classification and parole and maintains an up-to-date background file on each prisoner.

DIRECTOR OF PRISONER TRAINING

The Director of Prisoner Training formulates training policies and supervises the academic and vocational training programs.

DIRECTOR OF MENTAL HYGIENE

The Director of Mental Hygiene supervises and administers the psychiatric, psychological and social work programs established for all prisoners confined at the Disciplinary Barracks.

PART IV

MISSION

The United States Disciplinary Barracks is a maximum-type confinement facility for both Army and Air Force prisoners. The primary mission of the Disciplinary Barracks, as assigned by the Department of The Army, is to "promote the reformation and rehabilitation of the prisoners with a view to their honorable restoration to military duty or their return to civilian life as useful citizens." All of the facilities of this institution are directed toward the achievement of this mission by devoting particular attention to the individual prisoner and administering treatment according to his individual needs.

The old concept of the custodial officer merely being a guard has given way at the Disciplinary Barracks and has been replaced by the concept that he is a supervisor who has constant contact with the prisoners in all their daily activities. This personal contact is established when evaluating prisoners for higher custody and training assignments. Those found to be trustworthy are removed from cells and transferred to dormitories. Prisoners quartered in dormitories are classified as Minimum "B" Custody Prisoners. They are placed on their honor which permits them to work outside the main wall without an armed guard but under supervision.

In 1954, a group of barracks outside the walls were released to the Disciplinary Barracks, and are presently used to house Minimum "A" Custody Prisoners. Living in these barracks, known as the Local Parolee Unit, prisoners have

considerable freedom and move to and from their jobs without supervision. They are further entitled to possess individual wrist watches and radios purchased with their own funds and enjoy many other privileges normally extended to US service personnel only.

The United States Disciplinary Barracks Special Services Branch, operated under the supervision of the Director of Custody, provides a well-rounded recreational program. This program includes an indoor and outdoor seasonal sports program, and a well-equipped gymnasium. Movies which are approved for showing to the prisoner population are held on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays in the Auditorium. A well-equipped hobby shop provides a program for all types of handicraft. The Disciplinary Barracks has two libraries (one at the Local Parolee Unit and one within the "Castle") containing over 16,000 volumes that cover a wide range of subjects. All books placed in these libraries are screened to assure that they are beneficial to the individual prisoner's reading habits. Selected radio programs from three different channels are sent through a closed circuit network to each prisoner's individual cell. These welfare and recreational programs provide the prisoners with entertainment and opportunity for intellectual growth.

Prisoners at the Disciplinary Barracks are served the same ration as Army and Air Force troops. The prison mess is operated as a general type mess utilizing cafeteria style service. This self-service system, with wholesome appetizing food, adds greatly to the morale of the prisoner.

All prisoners are entitled to participate in and attend religious services of their choice. The Disciplinary Barracks

has a Catholic and Protestant Chaplain assigned and employs an auxiliary chaplain of the Jewish faith. Ministers of other religious denominations are invited and are permitted to hold services for faiths other than Catholic, Protestant and Jewish. The Chaplains' position in this institution is rather unique. Although they are an integral part of the organization and are familiar with its operation, the Chaplains seem to be set apart. Many prisoners in need of guidance and assistance often turn to them. It is through this individual contact that the Chaplain is able to affect attitudes and behavior of certain prisoners that custodial officers have not been able to do.

Recognizing the psychological effect that cleanliness and modernization has on both the prisoner and his family, a continuous special effort is being made to provide a complete and comfortable visitors' room. Some recent improvements that have been accomplished are the purchase of modern attractive furniture, wall-to-wall carpets, air conditioning, baby play-pens and beds, and materials for redecorating the interior to obscure all barred windows. This provides each prisoner the privilege of receiving visitors in a home atmosphere. Other physical improvements that have been completed or are being planned for are the recent renovation and interior painting of the prisoners' cells and cell blocks, showers and laundry facilities have been improved which contributes to the personal hygiene of each individual, and plans are being coordinated to install new plumbing, latrine fixtures, and stainless steel mirrors in some cells as needed.

The role of academic education and vocational education in the rehabilitation of military prisoners has long

been recognized by authorities of penology. Sometime during the year 1879, five years after the establishment of the prison at Fort Leavenworth, the Chaplain made the first attempt to establish a school. This effort failed due to the lack of satisfactory instructors, texts, and general school supplies. The idea of educating prisoners did not materialize until 1888. During this year, the first prison school was built and all who could not read and write were required to attend. The objectives during the early years of this school were to master history and vocational training skills. Through the years, and especially after World War II, emphasis was shifted to subjects such as self-confidence, worthy home membership, wholesome use of leisure time, and knowledge of world affairs.

Today the Academic Division offers a broad program of courses and classes to every man in the institution. Upon his arrival at the Disciplinary Barracks, the academic and vocational training programs are explained to each prisoner and he is encouraged to take advantage of them.

Classes are organized on the elementary, high school, and college levels, as well as in various vocational subjects. Since approximately sixty per cent (60%) of the prisoners have either graduated from high school or have satisfactorily completed the high school general education tests, the demand for college level courses has been increasing.

In cooperation with Highland Junior College, Highland, Kansas, a program was developed whereby prisoners may enroll in College classes sponsored jointly by the Junior College and the Disciplinary Barracks. The first classes organized under this program were started in September

1960 with an enrollment of ninety-three students. Upon completion of sixty-two semester hours of college credits, prisoner students receive an Associate in Arts Degree from Highland College.

In addition to organized academic classes, an extensive correspondence program is administered. Over two hundred correspondence courses are available. The following are a few of the examples: college algebra, foreign languages, plumbing, carpentry, American government, electronics, accounting, and others.

A valuable addition to the education program was made in 1954 when the Dale Carnegie Course in Effective Speaking and Human Relations was introduced. This course is offered by the Dale Carnegie Institute of Kansas City as a free service to this institution.

Throughout the history of the Disciplinary Barracks, Vocational Training Shop classes have contributed immeasurably toward the rehabilitation of prisoners. The Commandant received permission from the War Department in May 1887 to establish the first Vocational Training Shop. This first shop was the shoe and harness shop. The making of boots, shoes and harnesses provided a beginning for a program which today helps support a modern training program for many prisoners.

The Prisoner Training Directorate currently provides instruction and practical experience in auto mechanics, sheet metal, printing and bookbinding, shoe repair, upholstery, leathercraft, photography and silk screen printing. Prisoners assigned to these shops may earn college credits which, if the individual desires, may be applied toward a degree from Highland Junior College. All vocational train-

ing courses have been approved by the Kansas State Board for Vocational Education. Prisoners who successfully complete a training course receive a certificate of accomplishment from the State of Kansas.

Vocational training is also offered in farm and greenhouse operation. The farm consists of 649 acres of which approximately 474 acres are under cultivation. The major crops are corn, milo, alfalfa and oats. Other farm projects include swine, turkeys, chicken, beef cattle, and some fruits. Operation and maintenance of farm equipment is performed by prisoners under the supervision of trained civilian and military overseers.

To provide vocational training in horticulture, a large greenhouse, claimed to be the largest under one roof in the state of Kansas, is operated by the Disciplinary Barracks. Here prisoners have on-the-job training in the cultivation of flowers and related plants under the supervision of a trained horticulturist.

Revenue received from the sale of farm and greenhouse products and articles manufactured in the vocational shops is used to maintain and improve the Prisoner Training Program.

Two very important programs at the Disciplinary Barracks which help the prisoner to make the transition from a closely regulated life to normal community living is the parole and prerelease programs. Both of these programs are supervised by the Director of Classification.

The first prisoner was released on parole from the Disciplinary Barracks in December 1915. Since that time, the principle that treatment should be followed by a period

of guidance and supervision after release from confinement has been widely accepted. Without assistance after release, the parolee may find the problem of adjustment too great; thus, the rehabilitative effects of confinement may be lost.

Prisoners become eligible for parole after serving a minimum of six months or one third of their sentence. After determining that a prisoner is interested in parole, assistance is given him in the preparation of a parole plan which includes arrangements for housing and employment after release. Prisoners released by expiration of sentence are also given the same assistance. State employment services and charitable organizations are solicited for this assistance.

As a prisoner approaches his date of release from confinement he becomes apprehensive about returning to civilian life. His greatest concern is how will he be received in the community and how will he adjust to home environment. The transition problem between close supervision and suddenly gaining freedom was recognized in 1952 and a prerelease program was established at the Disciplinary Barracks at that time. This program prepares the prisoner for release to society by confronting him with the problems he will face when discharged.

Ninety days before release, a prisoner is separated from the rest of the population into special quarters and a separate mess. In preparation for release, he is given a choice of receiving a gratuitous issue of civilian clothing from the government, requesting his family send him clothing, or purchasing clothing from his personal funds. During this ninety-day period, the men in this program attend classes concerning employment, release procedures, veter-

ans' administration benefits, and community relationships. Upon release, each prisoner is furnished meal tickets and transportation to his home, and given up to \$25.00 in cash if he has no available personal funds.

The Prisoner Personnel Division maintains a personal file on each prisoner while confined at the Disciplinary Barracks. Everything pertaining to the individual, past or present, which may have a bearing on his case is maintained in this file. The correspondence branch of this section appraises the families of each prisoner's health and adjustment, procedures for obtaining welfare assistance, and informs them of correspondence and visiting procedures. The finance branch handles pay problems and advises prisoners on pay status when applicable.

A special restoration program for prisoners who are interested in returning to honorable duty is also conducted at the Disciplinary Barracks. A prisoner becomes eligible to attend this course by expressing his desires to the Prisoner Program Division under the Director of Classification. This program consists of a three-week course of instruction in subjects such as our Constitution and Bill of Rights, Military Leadership, Military Justice, and several others. Prisoners who attend this course are not always restored to duty. The final decision for restoration to duty rests with the Department of Army in Washington, D.C.

The legal section of this institution is well staffed with experienced and qualified legal officers. Probably the most important task encountered by this office daily is providing legal advice to Prisoners for problems not related to their offense. Examples of these problems are those related to family problems, personal property, income tax re-

turns, contracts, debts, and many others. Formerly legal advice concerning these problems was rendered the prisoner by experienced mature officers assigned to administrative positions in the organization and by Judge Advocates assigned to the Fort Leavenworth legal section.

Recognizing the grave need for an integral section such as this, a Legal Assistance Department was established at the Disciplinary Barracks in April 1947. A year later an officer was assigned with the principal duty of legal advisor. With the assignment of a legal officer, the amount of assistance rendered increased five-fold without any appreciable change in the size of the prisoner population.

This exemplifies the fact that unsolved personal problems constitute a source of disturbance and unrest in prisoners whereby they are less amenable to rehabilitative influences. Thus many prisoners are assisted in a very positive way by this section even though it is not generally considered a treatment agency. The Disciplinary Barracks is the only prison known that has an attorney immediately available to the prisoner.

The Directorate of Mental Hygiene is one of the most important agencies in the rehabilitation and reformation program for prisoners. It performs the important function of psychiatrically evaluating and classifying all prisoners of this institution. From this psychiatric evaluation, recommendations are made for restoration to duty, treatment and training, custody consideration, parole and clemency. In addition to the rehabilitative program, this division provides treatment for and recommends appropriate disposition of mentally disturbed prisoners.

The recommendations made by the Mental Hygiene

Directorate are considered vital in accomplishing a proper treatment program for each prisoner. Just as criminologists categorize criminal behavior to determine the cause, the Psychiatrist in Mental Hygiene categorizes the problem areas of each prisoner to determine a treatment for the cause. The finding and removal of any one problem might alter the entire behavior pattern of an individual prisoner.

Medical and hospital service facilities are the same as those for military personnel. Upon arrival, each prisoner is given a thorough examination. This includes all clinical, laboratory, and X-ray examinations. If any disease, physical defect, or injury is found, the individual is given prompt corrective medical treatment. Patients who require specialized surgery or medical treatment which cannot be performed at the local US Army Hospital are transferred to US Army General Hospitals.

PART V

PERSONNEL

The officers, enlisted men, and civilian employees of this institution are not merely guards, but are supervisors who have daily contact with the prisoners in their quarters, work, school, and other activities. The entire staff of the Disciplinary Barracks by example, informal counseling, and continued assistance have a tremendous influence on the prisoner's attitude and his progress toward rehabilitation. It is because of the specific and important mission of the United States Disciplinary Barracks that the military and civilian personnel are carefully selected, trained, and schooled before they assume responsibilities commensurate with their particular assignments. Every activity, officer, soldier and employee, contributes either directly or indirectly toward the rehabilitation of the men who are in confinement at this Disciplinary Barracks. They are constantly on the alert to learn or devise new methods which will make our program more effective.